

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this patent application. By this amendment, claim 1-7, 10-18, and 21-25 has been canceled, and claims 8 and 19 have been amended. Reconsideration of this patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-9 and 19-20 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Such rewriting has been done in accord with the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, claims 8-9 and 19-20 are believed to be in proper form for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-7, 10-18 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Meulink (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,845). Claims 1-7, 10-18 and 21-25 have been canceled.

Double Patenting

The Applicant has been requested to submit a concise listing of all related applications and patents and to indicate by claim the common subject matter therein.

In compliance with this request the Applicant submits that the only related applications are those cited in the application, as amended, as repeated below:

Cross reference is made to the following applications: DEP 651U.S.
Patent Application Serial No. 10/606,303 entitled "MODULAR TAPERED REAMER FOR BONE PREPARATION AND ASSOCIATED METHOD", and DEP 5083US Patent Application Serial Number, 10/606,304 entitled "NON-LINEAR REAMER FOR BONE PREPARATION AND ASSOCIATED METHOD" filed concurrently herewith which are incorporated herein by reference.

The Applicants indicate that the related applications do not claim any common subject matter.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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June 14, 2006

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